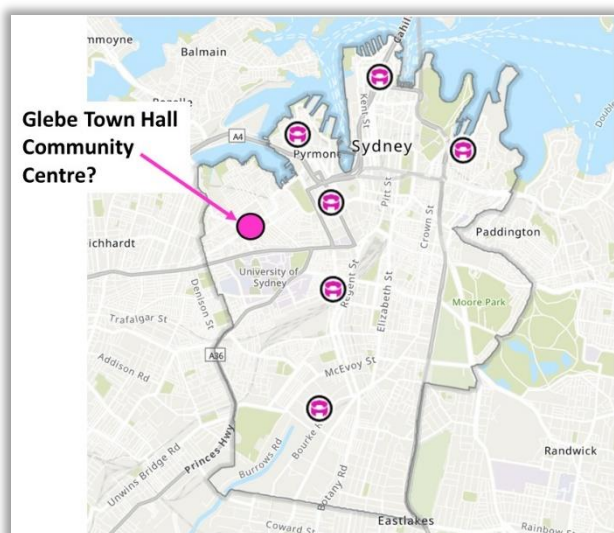


## Glebe Town Hall – A Great Venue for a Glebe Community Centre!

by Janice Challinor

One of the most obvious omissions in the suburb of Glebe is a dedicated, fully staffed, full-time community centre. In a 2019 survey of older Glebe residents over 90% of responders identified that as an impediment to the availability of local activities for groups of all ages.



Existing community centres in the City of Sydney LGA (circles with icons). The location of the proposed Glebe Town Hall Community Centre is marked by a solid circle.

(<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/community-centres> with additions by the Bulletin editor)

The Community Development Subcommittee of the Glebe Society has been researching what opportunities there are in Glebe for community groups to form, meet and flourish. We are aware that there are several variously-sized City of Sydney owned and managed spaces available for hire by community groups. These include St Helen's, Benledi, the Peter Forsyth Auditorium, the Robyn Kemmis space at Francis Street Park (the so-called 'old butcher's shop'), the new

community space at the Tramsheds, and the Glebe Town Hall itself. They lend themselves to a variety of uses but the major handicaps in utilising these are the cost and the difficulty of hiring a space for a community activity. While the City website has a link for this, there is a complicated process for obtaining a fee waiver, which many groups might need if they are to succeed. We note that our neighbours, Pyrmont and Ultimo, are both provided with such a facility and feel that Glebe should have one too.

The main advantages of Glebe Town Hall for the Glebe Community Centre are its geographically central location within the suburb and the number of potential spaces for community activities. The Society is advocating for this to bring Glebe into line with our neighbours.

Consequently, we have sent a submission to the Lord Mayor, to all the City of Sydney Councillors and to Monica Barone, the Chief Executive Officer, in relation to this community need. See a copy below. We look forward to your support and await their response.

### Text of Letter to City of Sydney

#### Enabling Community Activities - A Staffed Community Centre at Glebe Town Hall

*The Glebe Society (TGSI) urges the City of Sydney to create a Community Centre at the Glebe Town Hall to provide a much needed fully-staffed facility to serve the whole of the Glebe community.*

*TGSI welcomes the views expressed in the Mayoral Minute of 9 September 2019, 'Enabling Community Activities'. We believe that the most effective way to achieve these objectives for the Glebe community is to utilise the Glebe Town Hall as a dedicated fully-staffed Community Centre.*

## Background

*The Mayoral Minute notes the 'extensive portfolio of community venues' in the City of Sydney, and the critical contribution they make to 'our commitment to sustaining Sydney as a city for all'.*

*Glebe is generously endowed with community venues, including the beautifully refurbished Glebe Town Hall, the recently opened community space at the Tramsheds in Forest Lodge, the boutique Robin Kemmis facility at Franklyn Park, the Peter Forsyth Auditorium at Broadway Shopping Centre, the community space at St Helen's on Glebe Point Rd, the Benledi community space at Glebe Library, the former Walter Burley Griffin incinerator and the arches at Jubilee Park. However, our community spaces are generally under-utilised, and do not currently achieve their potential in 'enhancing community resilience'.*



*Glebe Town Hall – a potential site for the Glebe Community Centre (Photo: Sardaka, Wikipedia)*

*The Glebe Society has been investigating the needs of our community members who are 'ageing in place'. We have found a wide variety of activities already available in our community. City of Sydney provides several fitness and exercise programs as well as Monday and Thursday bingo, but most activities are organised by residents. Some are small and informal, such as book groups and sewing circles; others more formal and run by local organisations such as church groups, the PUG Men's Shed and the Glebe Society itself.*

*There are, however, a number of barriers in getting these self-generating activities off the ground. The first that most groups encounter is locating an appropriate venue. St Helen's Community Centre is staffed on Mondays and Thursdays, but it only has one space for community use, and that is booked on Mondays and Thursdays for early morning exercise and*

*bingo. At other times St Helen's, along with all other venues, is unstaffed. Gaining a booking to use these community venues involves a complex application process, which is especially difficult for unincorporated groups without insurance. In addition, access to an unstaffed venue on booking days can be cumbersome and time-consuming. Then, those groups that aim to be inclusive face barriers in spreading the word about their new activity.*

## **The next step - a staffed community centre at Glebe Town Hall**

*The Glebe Town Hall is located in the geographic heart of Glebe and boasts a number of fully accessible community spaces. We believe it is an ideal location for a fully staffed Community Centre, similar in nature to that available to residents of Pyrmont and Ultimo at their respective Community Centres. TGSi considers the present disparity creates an equity issue.*

*A Glebe Town Hall Community Centre (GTHCC) offers many positive advantages for our community.*

- *The location is accessible from all areas of Glebe and Forest Lodge*
- *The venue has a range of separate community spaces that could support a diverse cluster of activities, as well as having on-site office space for Community Centre staff*
- *The proximity of GTH to many social housing neighbourhoods is particularly advantageous to people seeking information about available assistance and services, many of whom currently seek help in lieu from the Glebe office of our State political representative, Jamie Parker.*
- *Clustering community activities at a GTHCC would:*
  - *Bring together a wide range of residents, increasing the scope to generate a program of activities that meets the needs of all residents, not just those with the capacity to organise their own activities and negotiate for the community space they need.*
  - *Create foot-traffic for a GTHCC noticeboard, increasing the scope for activities to become truly inclusive.*
- *But GTHCC would need staff to facilitate this process, reaching out to the community to support existing self-generated activities, and facilitating the establishment of new activities. At a minimum staff would need to handle*



bookings and allocate spaces among competing uses and ensure the spaces were open when needed; ideally, they would also facilitate discussions about the GTHCC program, to help generate new activities.

The Glebe Society is very aware of the City of Sydney's support for our organisation, and of the many ways in which the City supports community development in all its 'villages'. We urge you to consider our submission. We see a Glebe Town Hall Community Centre as an important initiative to make our diverse village community more resilient.

Recent interviews undertaken by GlebeConnected members found that approximately 90% of older people interviewed for their 'Ageing in Place' research expressed the desire for a comprehensive Community Centre to be established at Glebe Town Hall. The time is

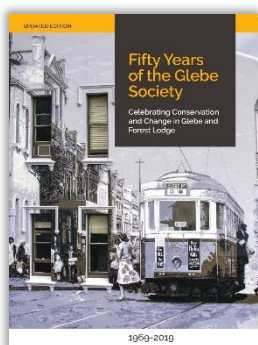
ripe for a fundamental review of the use of this valuable facility.

Our vision is for a dynamic community centre that engages the whole community, gives voice to those who currently have none and offers a program of activities that meets Glebe's diverse needs. We acknowledge that, if our vision is realised, it may inconvenience organisations that currently book Glebe Town Hall for ad hoc meetings, but Glebe has other under-utilised meeting rooms at Benledi and (on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays) at St Helen's.

Our community as a whole would benefit greatly from a fully staffed Community Centre at Glebe Town Hall.

Janice Challinor, on behalf of the TGS Community Development Subcommittee

## Letter to the Editor



Dear Virginia,  
Thank you for posting the package. It arrived yesterday.

I started to read the updated book last night. It's well written and illustrated. I am looking forward to reading the book (several times).

I've sent my cousin a 'surprise' copy. I think he'll be impressed by the book as I am.

All of the people who worked on production of the book (including yourself) have created a fine publication. I'm sure you've received +ve feedback for all of your work and resulting book.

May I please ask a favour? If possible, would you be able to email me a copy of the photograph you took from the Wentworth Park viaduct across to Blackwattle Bay (it's at page 36 of the book). It's a lovely picture. My family also used to go to Bullens' circus which pitched its tents on the bay side of the WP viaduct. My brothers also attended the Wentworth Park kindergarten (located on the other side of the viaduct).

I am grateful for your help in sending the books out.

Regards  
Michael O'Dea

[Editor's note: all members will receive a free copy of the book in due course. If you can't wait for yours, email [50th@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:50th@glebesociety.org.au) and we'll arrange a special drop-off.]

## What's been happening?

### 2019 Glebe Society Christmas Gathering

What a delight for around 95 members and their guests to celebrate the end of a big year for the Society in the grounds of historic *Rothwell Lodge* (built by George Allen circa 1847). *Rothwell Lodge* is one of the earliest surviving houses in Glebe and is set in lovely grounds. It is now the home of Peter and Robert. It is very significant in Glebe's history and we are fortunate that our hosts have a passion for the ongoing restoration of the house and surrounds and are generous in sharing this with others.

We enjoyed the landscaped gardens on a fine and balmy afternoon on 8 December. Guided tours of the house were offered as well as the opportunity to view a selection of the Heritage Subcommittee's exhibition from our Glebe Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Festival held in June. Background music by the talented guitarist Sam Joole, and great food and service added to the festive atmosphere. Thanks to everyone who brought gifts for our annual

'Community Giving Tree' – the table was groaning with donations.

Many who attended remarked that the event was a fitting end to a huge year of celebrations which aimed to acknowledge and showcase the important contributions by so many to our local community. People were still talking about the events, publications and displays from the Community Festival that stood out for them. These included learning about the beginnings of the Glebe Society. People appreciated the broader perspectives of Glebe from the time when Aboriginal people lived on the shores of Blackwattle and Johnston's Creeks, significant Aboriginal people and institutions / associations, Glebe environment, heritage, radical Glebe, community connections, personal perspectives of living in Glebe, Glebe Trams, Colourful Characters and 'My 2037' photo contributions from students at all local schools – as well as the music, theatre and the launch event.

It was a fabulous year of celebration – and a timely reminder of the part we can all play in

building and continuing to develop the community spirit which makes living in Glebe so special.

*Judy Vergison*  
Events Co-ordinator



*Glebe Society President, Brian Fuller, and Janice Challinor, Community Development Convenor, on the verandah of Rothwell Lodge (photo Josh Mitchell)*

## **Meredith Burgmann receives an AM in the Australia Day Honours**

Long-time Glebe Society member, Meredith Burgmann, has been made a member of the general division of the order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours List for significant service to the people and Parliament of New South Wales. Her achievements, as listed on the Governor-General's website, are shown below.

### **Parliament and Politics**

President, Legislative Council of New South Wales, 1999-2007. Board Member, Labour History Journal Editorial, 2008-2018.

Chair, Legislative Council Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics, 1995-1999.

President, Education Group, Labour Council of New South Wales, 1983-1991. Founding Member, Emily's List.

President, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of New South Wales, 1999-2007.

Life Member, Australian Labor Party, 2017.

### **International Relations**

Co-founder and Chair, Zimbabwe Information Centre, 1999-2018. Vice-Chair, Cuban Childrens Hospital Fund, 2004-2018.

President, Australian Council for International Development, 2008-2012.

Board Member, *Hoc Mai*, The Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation, 1998-2008. Human Rights Defender, Amnesty International, 2005.

Patron, Australia-Africa Business Council.

Co-founder, Southern Africa Liberation Centre, 1973-1980.



*Meredith Burgmann, Australian anti-apartheid activist being arrested. (Image courtesy of 'Have You Heard from Johannesburg', Flickr.)*

## Advocacy

Ambassador, Breast Cancer Network Australia, 2008. Founder, The Women's Employment Action Centre. Patron, Labor for Refugees.

Patron, Women in Film and Television.

Patron, Jarrah House Residential Treatment Facility for Women. Patron, Pride History Group.

Ambassador, Austcare World Humanitarian Aid (later Action Aid), 2006-2008. Life Member, Women's Network, Hunter New South Wales, 2007.

## Education

Chair, National Tertiary Education Union, Training and Development Advisory Board, 2005-2007, and Life Member, since 1994.

Member, University of NSW Council, 1995-1999.

President, University Academic Staff Association of New South Wales, 1985.

## Other

Ambassador, Sydney Swans Football Club, 2005-2018. Councillor, City of Sydney, 2008-2012.

Vice-Chair, Australian Reproductive Health Alliance, 2005-2009. Board Member, Sydney Peace Prize Foundation, 2013-2017.

Vice-President, Trade Union Committee on Aboriginal Rights, 1988-1991.



*Meredith Burgmann (left) with Josefa Sobski, Verity Firth and Nadia Wheatley at the 'Radical Glebe' event held on 24 June 2019 as part of the Glebe Society Community Festival. (photo: VixPix)*

## Planning Matters

### RJ Williams Lodge – 274 Glebe Point Rd



*Some of the attendees at the public meeting on 18 February, organised by Jamie Parker to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the RJ Williams Lodge (photo: Mark Stapleton)*

The Glebe Society would like to thank Jamie Parker MP for attending a meeting organised by local residents to discuss Wesley Mission's proposed plans for the redevelopment of RJ

Williams Lodge. More than 70 residents attended this meeting.

This site has been vacant since 2010, following the death of a resident who fell from his balcony on the second floor of the then 72 place aged care facility. Wesley Mission chose not to proceed with repairs required to remedy safety issues, deciding instead to relocate the 64 current residents and close the facility.

Between February 2017 and May 2018, then President Allan Hogan wrote to Wesley Mission a number of times seeking clarification of Wesley's intent with regard to the vacant building. (*Glebe Society Bulletin* 5/2018). No future plans were disclosed in any of this correspondence.

In October 2019, Wesley Mission announced plans to provide affordable housing on this site. Their promotional flyer described the development as '74 environmentally sustainable, self-contained units ... to suit tenants looking for quality and convenience'. The flyer also noted 'Wesley Mission wishes to strengthen its position as a good neighbour and is fully committed to an



open, respectful relationship based on mutual trust'.

The DA for this proposal, lodged on 20 December 2019, noted these plans as 'change of use of the existing building to a boarding house and associated alterations and additions'.

The plans themselves raised a number of issues for local residents and the broader community. Following their meeting, Jamie Parker summarised residents' feedback as follows:

- There is widespread support in the community for more quality affordable housing
- The site is proposed to include 100 bedrooms (73 dwellings) with some of the rooms being well under 20 sq. m. (The site is proposed to provide 64 studio dwellings and 9 x 4 bedroom 'family' clusters. Of the 64 studios, 44 are between 15 and 16 sq. m, seven are 18 sq. m and the remaining 13 are between 21 and 25 sq. m.) This is an over intensification of the site which will provide inadequate accommodation for the tenants and lead to significant impacts on the local community including:
  - Insufficient on-site parking (no provision for private cars, visitors or loading)
  - Inadequate facilities for the management of garbage
  - Rooftop areas will have significant acoustic and overlooking impacts on neighbouring residents
  - Open walkways will have a significant acoustic and privacy impact on neighbouring residents
- The development breaches the floor space ratio standard for the area

- The applicant presents the development as a property with a focus on women over 55. However, the Plan of Management fails to provide any targets let alone an enforceable guarantee that women over 55 or local people in housing stress will be serviced by this development
- The developer should be seeking to reduce the impact of this building on the community and fix the existing issues with this building rather than perpetuating the mistakes of the past.

Once again, thank you Jamie for attending this meeting and providing this feedback.

Jude Paul  
Secretary

The Glebe Society's submission to the City of Sydney on Wesley's RJ Williams Lodge DA, lodged on 20 February, can be found here:

[https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/DA\\_RJ\\_Williams\\_Lodge.pdf](https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/DA_RJ_Williams_Lodge.pdf)



Detail from Wesley's brochure about the redevelopment

<https://www.wesleymission.org.au/assets/Uploads/Wesley-RJ-Williams-refurbishment.pdf>

## The Sydney Fish Market redevelopment

by Brian Fuller

In early January 2020 The Glebe Society was invited to meet with representatives of Infrastructure NSW to engage in early discussions on the redevelopment of the current Sydney Fish Market and the Bank St precinct.

Representing the Glebe Society were Lesley Lynch, Asa Wahlquist and me. Whilst there was not a significant advance on previous information provided, the Glebe Society welcomes the continued dialogue.

The following is our response to the meeting, as written to Infrastructure NSW:

*We note the intention to master plan Blackwattle Bay as a separate precinct to the entire Bays Precinct. Whilst this has the advantage of greater focus on the Bay, the disadvantages are to a coordinated network in relation to transport, housing, recreation space, employment distribution, the operating harbour etc. This is especially critical given the projected population growth of greater Sydney to 8.5 million by 2056 (per City of Sydney) and the pressures that puts on the Inner West/Bays Precinct.*

*Whilst we appreciate that the planning is very preliminary, there is a tremendous*

opportunity to get it 'right' and we look forward to further meaningful consultation that results in great outcomes for the community.

We request that the planning proposals seek to respect the provisions of the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour catchment 2005) and more particularly, to ensure accessibility to Sydney Harbour and its foreshores, the public good has precedence over the private good whenever change is proposed, and the protection of the natural assets of Sydney Harbour has precedence over all other interests.



The current Sydney Fish Market site is tightly hemmed in by the busy Western Distributor – hardly an appropriate site for a massive residential development. (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Within that context we wish to record that the items of importance to members of the Glebe Society will include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following:

- The foreshore walk is a true foreshore walk that does not detour into or between buildings
- The scale of the built form away from the foreshore, particularly height, is measured and respects the need not to overshadow the environmental assets along the recreated foreshore

- The provision of recreational space is balanced appropriately and not compromised by 'developer' interests
- The road network is not overburdened and given relief by the adoption of enhanced ferry services to Circular Quay, connectivity to a repaired Glebe Island Bridge for cycle and pedestrian use, and the appropriate location of a Sydney West Metro station
- The 'mixed use' proposal for the built form is balanced between the need to attract employment opportunities (say, in smart technology) for the community seeking local employment, whilst living within an accessible locale that does not put further pressure on transport infrastructure.
- The site is already challenged given the adjacency to the Western Distributor/Anzac Bridge, and the master planning must not be further compromised by the need to over-develop in order to fund a very expensive relocated Fish Market

We did not have sufficient time to discuss this last point, however all of us have a responsibility to the site not to allow it to be used to finance other developments. The minute that occurs, the best plans will be diluted, and the price paid has negative implications over the longer term to an aspirational smart city.

Notwithstanding our continued objection to the relocated Fish Market, we look forward to further consultation with you.

Brian Fuller  
Convenor, Heritage Subcommittee

## Disappearing Glebe – no more Glenmore



The Glenmore Meats factory in the throes of demolition (photo: Phil Vergison)



## Community Matters

### Have your say on Council's draft Homelessness Action Plan

This draft plan includes key actions to reduce homelessness and its impacts in the City of Sydney area by working closely with our residents, workers, visitors, services and other agencies.

The plan sets out the following three strategic priorities:

- strategic priority 1 – monitor trends in inner city homelessness and increase access to safe and sustainable housing and support
- strategic priority 2 – support people sleeping rough and manage the public domain
- strategic priority 3 – work smarter together to have a greater impact

Comments should be provided at <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/your-say> by 5 pm on Monday 2 March.



*Wentworth Park in August last year – previously these arches provided shelter for a significant number of homeless people (photo: V. Simpson-Young)*

### Kitchen Pack Project Passes the Half Century

We delivered our 50<sup>th</sup> pack of kitchen essentials in January; this week the total is likely to reach 55 – all in just over two years. This is a wonderful achievement for a project that began with a target of providing packs for just 11 new households per year.

Thank you to all who have contributed – Glebe Community Op Shop, Harvey Norman Broadway, PUG Men's Shed and City of Sydney, and the many members of the Glebe Society and the broader community who have donated

kitchenware and cash. Thank you also to those who have contributed their time to cleaning and packing, and those who have helped publicise the project – the Glebe Society through this *Bulletin*, but also the many members who have encouraged their friends and neighbours to donate kitchenware for recycling through the project. We depend heavily on those donations.

While this summer was a busy time for outgoing packs, there was a lull in kitchenware donations – a repeat of last year's pattern. We began with good stocks this year but are now running low. Please check your cupboards for un-needed items and pass the word to your friends and neighbours.



*A detail from Singles Kitchen Pack no. 26 – tumblers are in short supply, as are food preparation knives, frypans and medium saucepans (photo: Diane Hutchinson)*

The items we are now especially short of are:

- food prep knives (we can sharpen blunt ones),
- frypans (we can refurbish stainless steel and cast iron pans),
- medium saucepans, and
- tumblers.

But we would also welcome any of the other kitchenware on our standard list. (See <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/about-glebe/community-directory/kitchen-starter-pack-project/>)

Please call Diane on 0407 207 177 or email on [kitchenpack@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:kitchenpack@glebesociety.org.au) to arrange a



mutually convenient pick-up time. Alternatively, you can deliver your items to:

- Kitchen Pack sessions at the St Helen's kitchen (accessed by a ramp at the rear of the building), 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 9.30am to 12.30pm, or
- 'Sewing for Good' at the Aboriginal Cultural Space, Glebe Town Hall, on 2nd and 4th Fridays, 10am to 1pm.

Also, we would welcome more helpers at St Helen's kitchen on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 9.30-12.30. Just stay an hour or two if you like – perhaps time it so you can join us for morning tea or coffee at about 11am.

*Diane Hutchinson*  
Project coordinator

## History & Heritage

### Researching Your House?



In 2017 the Glebe Society held a session with presenters providing guidelines and examples on how to research your house.

Recently (via the website) there has been some interest in attending another session, however as yet there is not enough to justify the hire of a hall at the Town Hall.

If you are interested please email [heritage@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au)

### Rock Lane, Glebe – the story behind the name

by Rodney Hammett

You could be forgiven for thinking that Rock Lane was named for the rocky outcrop it traverses, however it's in recognition of Harry Rock, Glebe Alderman in 1913 (briefly) then 1926 to 1928.

The political aspects of Harry's life in the Glebe branch of the Labor Party are covered in detail by Michael Hogan in his book *Local Labor: A History of the Labor Party in Glebe* and also discussed in Max Solling's *Grandeur and Grit, A History of Glebe*.



*Rock Lane which runs from the end of Boyce St down to Wigram Rd (Photo: Rodney Hammett)*

But who was Harry Rock?

Born Henry Edwin Rock in July 1875 in Dunedin, New Zealand, he was the eldest of 11 children to Irish-born Joseph Henry Rock (1842-1920) and London-born Alice Jane Horne (1851-1931).

Alice, with three children, followed her husband to Sydney, arriving in January 1883<sup>1</sup>. Initially they lived in Albert St then in Mill St in Pyrmont, attending the local Presbyterian Church. In a telling example of the dreadful urban and medical conditions at the time, of Alice's 11 children only seven survived to adulthood. Life in Sydney at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was tough; Australia suffered a devastating drought from 1880 to 1886<sup>2</sup> and in the 1890s an economic depression left the banking system in ruins.

Unsurprisingly Joseph was strict with his boys, getting them out to work to supplement the household budget at an early age but it led to them being caught by the law for petty theft. In 1892, at the age of 13, Harry's younger brother, Valentine, was sent to the boys' reform ship *Sobraon* for three years.<sup>3</sup> The ship was moored in Sydney Harbour off Cockatoo Island. For further details, see [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/vernon\\_nautical\\_training\\_ship](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/vernon_nautical_training_ship).

Harry was no angel either. During April 1893 at the age of 17 he spent seven days in Darlinghurst jail for riotous behaviour.<sup>4</sup>

Eventually finding a job as a sawyer in the timber industry in Blackwattle Bay Harry, at the age of 25, married Jessie McRae (19) with her father's

consent, in the manse of the Presbyterian Church, Quarry St, Ultimo on Friday 5 February 1900.<sup>5</sup>

Prior to his marriage he had been living with his parents and siblings at 43 Gottenham St, Glebe. This well-appointed house with 3-4 bedrooms had been built in 1881-82 by bricklayer Charles Wylie then sold to an investor; changing hands twice to other investors before Joseph Rock rented it in about 1895.<sup>6,7</sup>

Daughter Alice was born later in 1900 after Harry and Jessie had moved into 95 Bridge Rd, Glebe – a home they continued to rent for almost 30 years.

This row of single storey terraces (Numbers 77-97) was purchased in December 1884 as vacant land<sup>8</sup> by notable Sydney architect and Glebe Alderman Ambrose Thornley (1844-1911), the architect for the Glebe Town Hall. It is most likely Ambrose who designed and built these terraces.

From this house they would have seen, from 1910 to 1922, the construction of the Darling Harbour goods line with bridges, viaducts and tunnel – now the route of the light rail.

In all, Harry and Jessie had seven children, the others being Jessie (1903), Henry (1906), Amelia (1909), Charles (1913), Jean (1918) and Norma (1922). They grew up in Glebe and then, as was usual for children of that era, most married and moved to suburbs away from the city. Tragically, Amelia died at Sydney Hospital aged only 13 in August 1922.

Up until WWI Harry was still learning from his veteran unionist father, making his way up the union ladder, being described in the press as an organiser in the Sawmill Employees' Association and becoming an identity in the Glebe branch of the Labor Party. Harry didn't enlist for WWI, however his son Charles served as a private in the Army during WW2, returning safely before discharge in August 1945.

After WWI Harry became the vocal Secretary of the Taxi Owners' Association, promoting taxis and often defending taxi operators in letters to editors, a role he continued until he retired to live at St George's Basin in 1930. Daughter Jessie and son Charles lived close by.

Harry would have enjoyed the slower lifestyle on the South Coast where interestingly he became a fisherman, according to daughter Jean's marriage certificate in 1940. He died on 27 May 1945 aged 69 and was buried in the Nowra General Cemetery.

Returning to Sydney after Harry died Jessie lived with son Charles at Lidcombe until October 1951

when she died aged 70. She was buried in Rookwood Cemetery.

*Rodney Hammett*  
Heritage Subcommittee

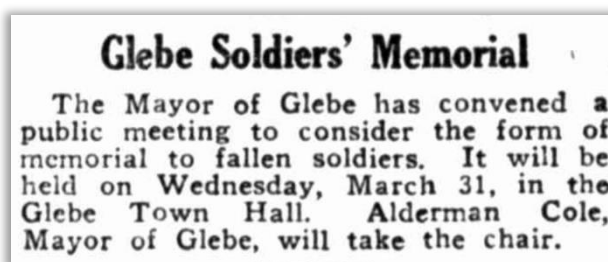
Sources: 1. Passenger list; Ancestry.com; 2. Australian Bureau of Statistics; <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/lookup/1301.0Feature%20Article151988>; 3. Ancestry.com; New South Wales, Australia, Entrance Books for the *Vernon* and the *Sobraon*, 1867-1911; 4. Ancestry.com; New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930; 5. Marriage Certificate, NSW ref 453/1900; 6. Certificate of Title 584-244; 7. Sands Directories; 8. Certificate of Title 724-212;



(Photo: Rodney Hammett)

## 100 Years ago in Glebe & Forest Lodge – this month: March 1920

prepared by Rodney Hammett



Source: Sydney Times; Sunday 28 March 1920, p. 18

See *Bulletin* No 3 of 1919 (May) for an item and further historical details on the War Memorial.

Also see the NSW War Memorials Register at: <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/glebe-war-memorial>



# Glebe Naturally

## News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

The City of Sydney's Working Group has drawn up revised plans for Ernest Pedersen Reserve which incorporate the design of the original front garden of the adjacent *Rothwell House*. The Group was chaired by Chris Thomas, Manager Design, City of Sydney and the other members were Helen Rogers, Design Manager, City of Sydney, local Ferry Rd residents and Ferry Rd Bushcare Group members, Jenna Reed Burns and Iain Gibson, with Andrew Wood representing the Glebe Society. The revised plans are now on exhibition and at the onsite meeting with local residents at 4.30 pm on Thursday 20 February there was agreement that the new plans were a major improvement upon the initial proposals. The Society is in overall support of the revised plans for the Reserve as they recognise the unique heritage value of the site and its principal use as a passive park which can be quietly enjoyed by the Glebe community.

A continuing problem experienced by the five volunteer bushcare groups in Glebe is the lack of knowledge and expertise shown by the City's park maintenance contractor, Skyline Landscape Services. For example, at the end of last year a section of garden embankment halfway down the stairs from Avon St into William Carlton Gardens was damaged. The plants were either slashed with a whipper-snipper or just pulled out of the ground and left to die and included *Dianella*, *Dietes* and *Cissus antarctica*. Then in January the maintenance crew raked up and removed the mulch from around the flora in Ernest Pedersen Park. When asked why they were removing the mulch, a bushcare volunteer was told that 'the mulch was being removed under orders so that park could be mulched'. More recently in John Street Reserve some of the native vines which had been trained by the bushcare volunteers to

grow over the loop border fencing were removed as were native grasses, but not the weeds; in addition there was no pruning of a large *Celtis* tree (a noxious weed) which has grown to cover the mid-section of the Reserve. It should be remembered that John Street Reserve was created as a native habitat to attract small birds. Skyline staff do not appear to be trained for fine detail weeding and habitat management. The National Trust bush regeneration team working in other Glebe and Forest Lodge reserves do have these skills and would be the appropriate contractors to work in Ernest Pedersen Park and John Street Reserve in liaison with our bushcare volunteers.

*Andrew Wood*  
Convenor, Blue Wrens Subcommittee



City of Sydney's revised plans for Ernest Pedersen Reserve (Source: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/>)

## Request for Information

From an enquiry to our website we have a person wanting any information on a Sydney Textile Museum at 172 St Johns Rd in the 1970s and 80s. Mr Les Rashleigh was the Director in the mid-1980s.

Please reply to [heritage@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au).

## Johnston's Creek

Do you have any questions or concerns about the Johnston's Creek Naturalisation Project?

Diona, the company doing the work, has an on-site community relations office set up to answer questions.

It is opposite the Hilda Booler kindergarten and open 8 am to 12 noon on weekdays.

There is also an information line: 1300 131 338, and an email contact:

[johnstonscreek@diona.com.au](mailto:johnstonscreek@diona.com.au)



One of the many areas of the Glebe Foreshore that have been blocked off and resurfaced for the heavy equipment used in the Johnston's Creek Naturalisation Project (photo: V.Simpson-Young)

## Creative Glebe

### Players in the Pub

**BLEAK HOUSE** by Charles Dickens

directed by Lyn Collingwood

with Harley Connor, Alan Faulkner, Chris Galletti, Nicholas Gledhill, Patrick Holman, Deb Hunt, Dave Kerslake, Cassady Maddox, Jim McCrudden, Sharron Skehan, Jessica Sullivan & Peter Talmacs

When: Wednesday 18 March at 7 pm

Where: Upstairs Toxteth Hotel

Ferry Rd/Glebe Point Rd  
(entry via Ferry Rd staircase)

Free admission. Donations box for New Theatre (which is fundraising for a new roof)



The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please order early. We always aim to start on time!



## Books

### The Glebe Point Road Blues

*The Glebe Point Road Blues* by Vrasidas Karalis is the imaginative recreation of the experience of living on Glebe Point Rd for over 30 years in prose and verse.

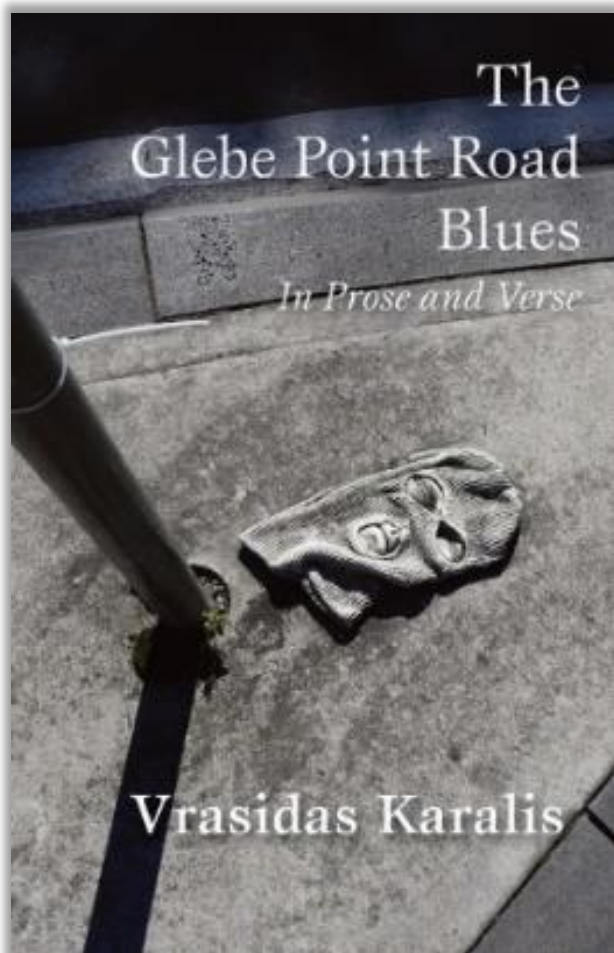
Through the encounters of the unidentified writer, the narrative evokes unsuspected episodes and quirky moments from the lives of countless

ordinary or sometimes extraordinary people, as fleeting snapshots depicting moments of compassion, love, evil and despair as well as death. Characters, real, imagined and composite, include a respectable professor from Sydney University, a Belgian coffee maker, a British backpacker, a Vietnam veteran, a religious transsexual, an Iraqi-Jewish doctor, a failed politician, a child of the stolen generation, a self-indulgent



young poet, a ferocious old Nazi, a Chinese dry-cleaner and more. The Road itself takes active part in their existence.

*The Glebe Point Road Blues* will be launched by David Brooks at Gleebooks on Saturday 7 March at 3.30 pm for 4 pm. Book at [Gleebooks.com.au](http://Gleebooks.com.au) or 9660 2333.



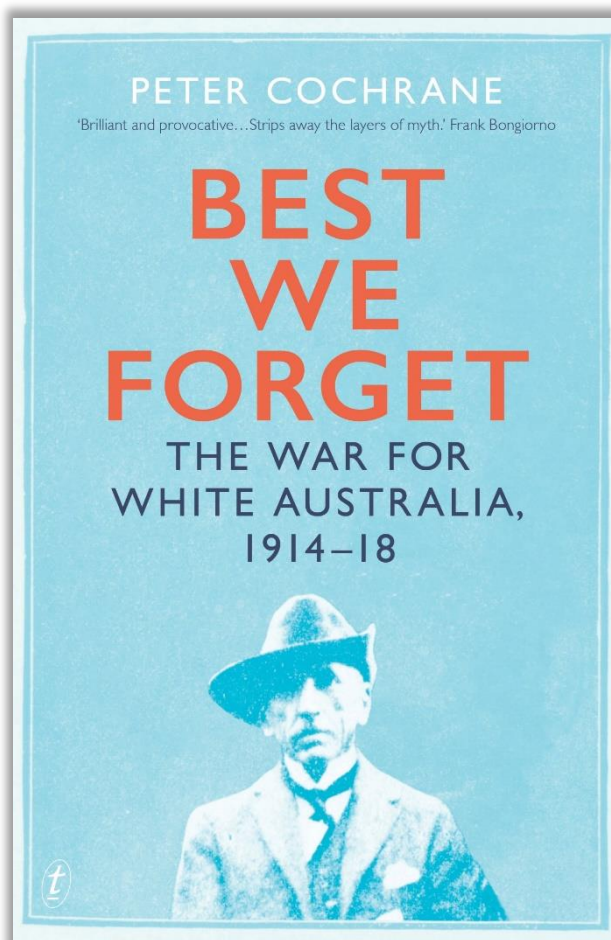
### **Best We Forget**

Peter Cochrane, long-time Glebe resident, is perhaps better known as a historian than as a novelist, but recently two of his books have been published, one, a history of race fear in WW1, the other, a frontier novel, *The Making of Martin Sparrow*.

Cochrane's history of race fear in WW1 is *Best We Forget. The War for White Australia, 1914-18* (Text Publishing, Melbourne 2018). The core argument here is that racial obsessions, notably the fear of Japan (Britain's ally), shaped Australia's preparation for and commitment to the First World War in ways that have been forgotten by collective memory and banished from official narratives. Why does our collective remembrance contain not the faintest notion that the nation's war was, in no small part, a war for White Australia?

The chapters spell out the racial context, the racial dimension of the war itself, and the concluding chapter discusses the politics of collective memory – how and why these things get forgotten or sidelined. The book was reviewed by Professor Peter Stanley (UNSW Canberra) on the *Honest History* website in October 2018. Stanley described *Best We Forget* as: 'quite simply, the most important book on Australia and the Great War to appear in the course of the war's centenary.'

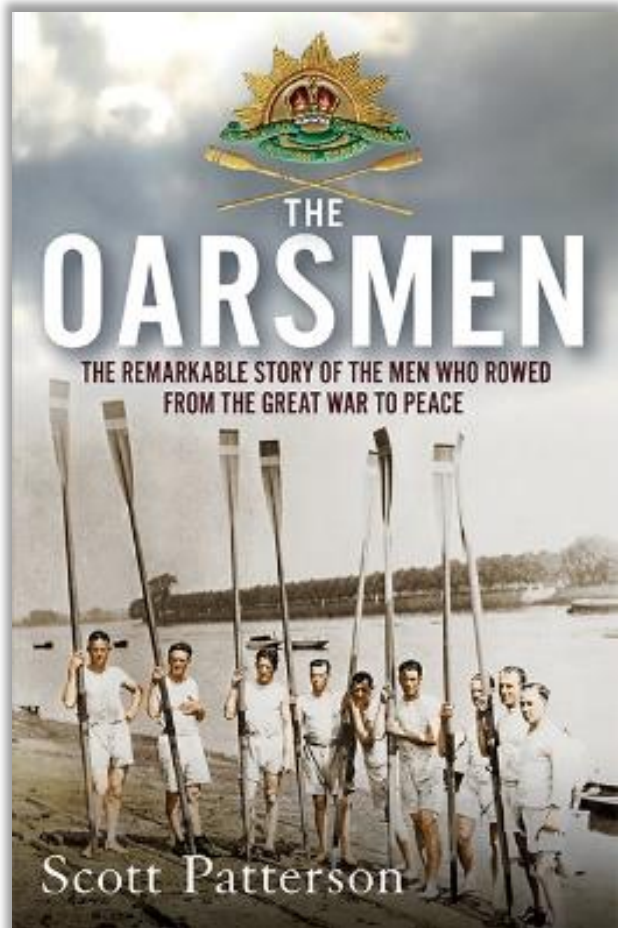
Peter Cochrane is a widely published historian and writer based in Sydney, Australia. He is perhaps best known for his book *Colonial Ambition: Foundations of Australian Democracy* which won the inaugural Prime Minister's Prize for History and *The Age* Book of the Year in 2007. His first venture into fiction was the novella *Governor Bligh and the Short Man* (Penguin 2012). He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.



### **The Oarsmen**

Scott Patterson is a Glebe resident who has just had a book published by Hardie Grant entitled *The Oarsmen*.

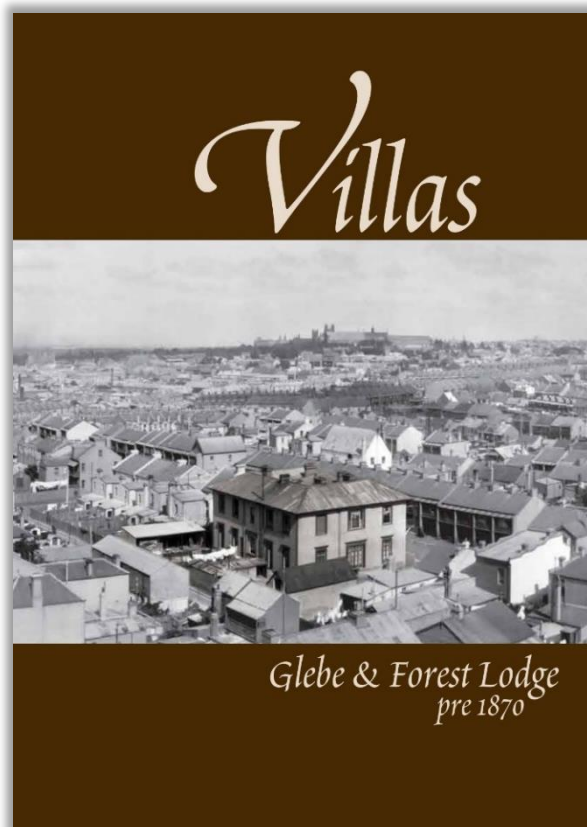
At the end of the First World War, there were 270,000 demobilised Australian soldiers in Europe. Getting them home after the Armistice was a task of epic proportions that would take more than two years. In the meantime, how to keep these disgruntled, damaged men with guns occupied? In a word: sport.



*The Oarsmen* tells the story of the servicemen who survived the war to row for the coveted King's Cup at the 1919 Royal Henley Peace Regatta. The leader of the crew, Major Sydney Middleton, came from Pyrmont and Glebe. Competing against crews from the US, New Zealand, France, the UK and Canada, the Australians were a ragtag bunch of oarsmen thrown into an old-fashioned boat and expected to race. Many had

seen the worst of the action during the war at Gallipoli and the Western Front, and carried scars both physical and psychological. The baggage they brought to the boat would soon threaten to capsize the whole endeavour.

Combining first-hand accounts with lively prose, this never-before-told story approaches the First World War from peacetime and illuminates history in vivid and compelling detail. Interweaving the soldiers' personal stories from before, during and after the war, *The Oarsmen* paints a fascinating picture of how these men, and society, transitioned from an unprecedented war to a new sort of peace.



*The Glebe Society publication, Villas: Glebe and Forest Lodge pre-1870 was produced to accompany the heritage exhibition at the Community Festival in June last year. This beautiful catalogue is available for a donation of \$10, delivered free in postcode 2037. Only 30 copies left. Email: [robert@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:robert@glebesociety.org.au).*



### Looking for ...

#### Guest Editor for the *Bulletin*

Would you like to try your hand at editing one edition of the *Bulletin* some time this year? No editing experience is necessary, but being able to use Microsoft Word, InDesign or another appropriate program is essential. Your role is to lay out the content that's provided by our contributors (no need to chase them up!). The *Bulletin* then goes to our proof-readers for checking. You then make the corrects, *et voila!*

If you would like to give it a try, email me, Virginia, at [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au) or call 0402 153 074.



## For Your Calendar

Wednesday 4 March, 4:30 pm: working bee at Orphan School Creek park, contact Judy Christie - 0437 693 372.

Saturday 7 March, 3.30 pm for 4 pm. The Glebe Point Road Blues book launch by David Brooks, Gleebooks.

Wednesday 11 March, 7 pm. Glebe Society Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

Saturday 14 March, Artisan Market Glebe, Foley Park Glebe.

Wednesday 18 March, 7 pm. Players in the Pub. Upstairs Toxteth Hotel

Wednesday 8 April, 7 pm. Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

Sunday 20 September, 10.30 am–2.30 pm Glebe Society AGM, Glebe Town Hall.

1st to 22nd November, 31st Annual Glebe Music Festival. [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)

2nd & 4th Friday of the month, 10 am-1 pm. Sewing 4 Good, Aboriginal Space, Glebe Town Hall.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm. Kitchen Starter Pack drop-off, St Helen's Community Centre.

## Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

### Management Committee

President	Janet Wahlquist		<a href="mailto:president@glebesociety.org.au">president@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Vice President	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au">vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Past President	Brian Fuller	0409 035 418	<a href="mailto:pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au">pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Secretary	Jude Paul	0438 600 882	<a href="mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au">secretary@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Minutes Secretary	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	<a href="mailto:minutes@glebesociety.org.au">minutes@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Jane Gatwood	0488 118 355	<a href="mailto:treasurer@glebesociety.org.au">treasurer@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Dorothy Davis	0417 240 603	<a href="mailto:dorothy@glebesociety.org.au">dorothy@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Ted McKeown	02 9660 3917	<a href="mailto:ted@glebesociety.org.au">ted@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Michael Morrison		<a href="mailto:michael@glebesociety.org.au">michael@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Robert Hannan	0423 111 365	<a href="mailto:robert@glebesociety.org.au">robert@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Bays & Foreshores	Lesley Lynch	02 9660 5084	<a href="mailto:bays@glebesociety.org.au">bays@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	02 9660 6104	<a href="mailto:bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au">bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Communications	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	<a href="mailto:communications@glebesociety.org.au">communications@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Community	Janice Challinor	0401 505 657	<a href="mailto:community@glebesociety.org.au">community@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Environment	Asa Wahlquist	02 9660 8261	<a href="mailto:environment@glebesociety.org.au">environment@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Heritage	Brian Fuller	0409 035 418	<a href="mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au">heritage@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Planning	Neil Macindoe	02 9660 0208	<a href="mailto:planning@glebesociety.org.au">planning@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Transport & Traffic	Janet Wahlquist		<a href="mailto:transport@glebesociety.org.au">transport@glebesociety.org.au</a>

### Working Groups & Contacts

Glebe Island Bridge	Vacant		<a href="mailto:transport@glebesociety.org.au">transport@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Archivist	Lyn Milton	02 9660 7930	<a href="mailto:archives@glebesociety.org.au">archives@glebesociety.org.au</a>
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	<a href="mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au">editor@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Events	Judy Vergison	0417 446 425	<a href="mailto:events@glebesociety.org.au">events@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Local History	Lyn Collingwood	02 9660 5817	<a href="mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au">history@glebesociety.org.au</a>
History of Glebe	Max Solling	02 9660 1160	
Glebe Voices	Fiona Campbell	02 9660 0185	<a href="mailto:glebevoices@glebesociety.org.au">glebevoices@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Web content	Tarny Burton		<a href="mailto:webmaster@glebesociety.org.au">webmaster@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Website technical	Peter Thorogood	0404 801 947	<a href="mailto:support@glebesociety.org.au">support@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Facebook	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	<a href="mailto:facebook@glebesociety.org.au">facebook@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Twitterer			<a href="mailto:twitter@glebesociety.org.au">twitter@glebesociety.org.au</a>

## Highlights this Issue

GLEBE TOWN HALL – A GREAT VENUE FOR A GLEBE COMMUNITY CENTRE! .....	1
LETTER TO THE EDITOR; 2019 GLEBE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GATHERING .....	3
MEREDITH BURGMANN RECEIVES AN AM IN THE AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS .....	4
RJ WILLIAMS LODGE – 274 GLEBE POINT RD .....	5
THE SYDNEY FISH MARKET REDEVELOPMENT .....	6
DISAPPEARING GLEBE – NO MORE GLENMORE .....	7
HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL’S DRAFT HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN .....	8
KITCHEN PACK PROJECT PASSES THE HALF CENTURY .....	8
RESEARCHING YOUR HOUSE? ROCK LANE, GLEBE – THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME .....	9
100 YEARS AGO IN GLEBE & FOREST LODGE – THIS MONTH: MARCH 1920 .....	10
NEWS FROM THE BLUE WREN SUBCOMMITTEE .....	11
JOHNSTON’S CREEK .....	12
PLAYERS IN THE PUB; BOOKS .....	12



PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 No 1 of 2020 (March 2020)

### Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110

### How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under 'Membership'
- Download a membership form from [www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au)



*Mark Stapleton's Glebe Society Keep Cup visiting Cambridge University (photo: Mark Stapleton)*

Views expressed in this *Bulletin* are not necessarily those of the Glebe Society Inc. Articles and photos submitted for any of the Glebe Society's publications, including the website and *Bulletin*, may also be used in the Glebe Society's other publications.